



217/782-5562

October 8, 1991

Kevin Cahill, Public Affairs  
Monsanto Company  
800 Lindbergh Blvd.  
St. Louis, Missouri 63167

Dear Kevin,


I have heard from Paul Takacs, IEPA project manager for Sauget Sites, that Monsanto is interested in conducting a sampling study possibly followed by remedial work in Dead Creek segment B and associated sites. I also understand that the project will commence very soon - within the next two weeks, in fact - and that Monsanto prefers to keep the project low-profile.

While understanding the reasons Monsanto would prefer to avoid publicity, I expect work done in that area will attract a great deal of attention, especially if it is perceived to be a secretive project. There are several reporters in the area who are very alert to "environmental news" and have excellent contacts with several homeowners along the creekbed. Also, the new driving range along Judith Lane will provide an excellent vantage point for observation of Creek segment B activities. Although autumn is fast approaching, avid golfers will take advantage of the last fair days of the year. Word will get out quickly. It is very likely that rumors of a cleanup will start when heavy equipment (drill rigs, etc.) and workers in protective clothing appear on the scene. Reaching out to the media pro-actively, before work begins, would scotch those rumors and prevent the story from becoming an areawide headline about Monsanto's "clandestine cleanup."

At a bare minimum, IEPA's historically open relationship with local officials makes it necessary that Mayor King of Cahokia be informed of the activities within Cahokia Village limits as soon as possible and that he be updated regarding progress at the site. I am prepared to talk with him but the information ideally should come from Monsanto. Establishing and maintaining Monsanto's credibility in the area and with Mayor King will be virtually impossible if Monsanto does not initiate contact with community officials (and, preferably, the local press as well).

I strongly urge you to reassess your strategy, contact Mayor King and issue a press release regarding your activities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mara McGinnis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mara" being more prominent than the last name "McGinnis".

Mara McGinnis  
Community Relations Coordinator, IEPA

MM:ks/1-040